

IN THE CLAIMS:

I CLAIM:

1. CURRENTLY AMENDED A method of assessing the risk of using industrial equipment to a user thereof by preparing a risk evaluation using a program containing evaluation data, there being at least three predetermined selections of information for each possible risk factor said selections having a range from minor to major, said method comprising:

- (a) inputting to a program from said selections information relating to a plurality of risk factors for each risk factor that is applicable to said industrial equipment;
- (b) causing said program to automatically estimate a net risk of injury to said user of said industrial equipment based on said information inputted relating to said plurality of risk factors and based on evaluation data within said program;
- (c) said program automatically producing a risk evaluation for said industrial equipment based on said information inputted relating to said plurality of risk factors and based on said evaluation data within said program.

2. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein one of said plurality of risk factors is based on safety characteristics of a particular facility in which said industrial equipment is to be used, said method including the step of estimating a level of risk reduction based on safety characteristics of said particular facility.

3. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A method as claimed in claim 2 including the step of repeating the method for various pieces of industrial equipment.

4. ORIGINAL A method as claimed in claim 2 including the step of inputting information of risk factors that increase risk together with risk factors that reduce risk.

5. ORIGINAL A method as claimed in claim 4 including the steps of inputting information by estimating a risk of injury to said user based upon characteristics of said industrial equipment and estimating a level of risk reduction based upon safety features for said industrial equipment.
6. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A method as claimed in claim 5 including the step of basing said range on a degree of risk attributed to that particular risk factor.
7. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A method as claimed in claim 5 including the step of establishing said evaluation data based on an equation of $A+B=C$ for each risk factor where A is the capability of said industrial equipment, B is the ability of said user, and C is the result.
8. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said method includes the step of predetermining said evaluation data within said program so that said data cannot be changed by said use.
9. ORIGINAL A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein each risk factor for which an input is available has four selections ranging from minor to major and said method includes the steps of inputting a selection for each risk factor that is applicable to said industrial equipment.
10. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A method as claimed in any one of claims 1, 8 or 2 including the step of inputting owner information into said risk evaluation.
11. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A method as claimed in any one of claims 1, 8 or 2 including the step of inputting equipment identification information into said risk evaluation.
12. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A method as claimed in any one of claims 1, 8 or 2 wherein said industrial equipment is one piece of industrial equipment and said method includes the steps of inputting information describing characteristics of each hazardous area of said industrial equipment and preparing a separate risk evaluation for each hazardous area.

13. ORIGINAL A method as claimed in claim 5 including the step of estimating a risk of injury to said user based upon characteristics of said industrial equipment as if no guarding has been installed on said industrial equipment.

14. ORIGINAL A method as claimed in claim 5 including the step of evaluating a probability of a risk factor of injury occurrence by inputting a level of risk for a risk factor severity of potential injury, a level of risk for a risk factor frequency of exposure and a level of risk for a risk factor possibility of hazard avoidance, there being no separate input for said probability of hazard occurrence.

15. ORIGINAL A method as claimed in claim 5 including the step of estimating a level of risk reduction based on safety features for said industrial equipment by inputting a level of risk for primary safety elements based on mechanical devices or, alternatively, inputting a level of risk for primary safety elements based upon risk reduction methods that are passive in nature.

16. ORIGINAL A method as claimed in claim 15 where said program permits inputting a level of risk for only one of the primary safety elements.

17. ORIGINAL A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein the step of estimating a level of risk based on safety characteristics of a particular facility in which the industrial equipment is to be used includes the steps of inputting levels of risk for a nature of person exposed to a hazardous area and personal protective equipment worn by persons who are present at or near said industrial equipment from time to time.

18. ORIGINAL A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein the risk estimation includes an evaluation of risk for a probability of hazard occurrence, said method including the step of evaluating a level of risk from said range of risk for risk factors comprising said probability of hazard occurrence.

19. ORIGINAL A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein said safety characteristics of said particular facility include a range of risk for a nature of exposed person, qualifications of exposed person, personal protective equipment and workplace safety policy and said method includes the steps of selecting a level of risk from each range of risk for each risk factor.
20. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A method as claimed in any one of claims 1, 8 or 2 including the step of saving said risk evaluation electronically and updating said risk evaluation for said industrial equipment to reflect changes in any of said risk factors.
21. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A method as claimed in any one of claims 1, 8 or 2 wherein said program can analyze multiple points of operation on a single piece of industrial equipment and said method includes analyzing each point of operation separately and producing an evaluation for each point of operation on a single piece of industrial equipment.
22. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A method as claimed in any one of claims 1, 8 or 2 wherein said program allows more than one version of a risk evaluation for said industrial equipment and said method includes the step of creating a new version of a risk evaluation or editing an existing version of a risk evaluation and inputting reasons for creating each version.
23. ORIGINAL A method as claimed in claim 4 including the step of inputting information by estimating a risk of injury to said user based on characteristics of said industrial equipment as if no guarding has been installed on said industrial equipment.
24. ORIGINAL A method as claimed in claim 4 including the step of inputting information by estimating a level of risk reduction based on safety features for said industrial equipment.
25. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A method as claimed in any one of claims 1, 8 or 5 including the step of inputting information concerning an additional safety element relating to risk reduction.

26. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A method as claimed in any one of claims 1, 8 or 5 including the step of inherently setting a probability of hazard occurrence at 100%.

27. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A method as claimed in any one of claims 1, 8 or 5 including the step of inputting information concerning a probability of hazard occurrence.

28. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A method as claimed in any one of claims 1, 8 or 5 including the step of inputting information concerning a probability of hazard occurrence within a range from substantially 90% to 100%.

29. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A method as claimed in any one of claims 1, 8 or 5 including the step of inputting information concerning a probability of hazard occurrence ranging from substantially 50% to 100%.

30. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A method as claimed in any one of claims 1, 8 or 5 including the step of inputting information concerning a probability of hazard occurrence ranging from substantially 0% to 100%.

31. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A method as claimed in any one of claims 1, 8 or 5 including the step of inputting information concerning a probability of hazard occurrence over a broad range.

32. CURRENTLY AMENDED A risk assessment system for use with a computer, said system assessing the risk of injury to a user from industrial equipment by preparing a risk evaluation, said system comprising:

- (a) a program on said computer containing predetermined evaluation data;
- (b) a range of pre-determined risk values for each of a plurality of potential risk factors for which inputs to said program are available for said industrial equipment;

- (c) said system displaying each of said risk factors on demand and a range of inputs for each of said risk factors for which inputs are available, there being at least three selections of inputs ranging from minor to major for each potential risk factor;
- (d) said system accepting an input for each risk factor for which inputs are available;
- (e) said system automatically determining a net value for all of said inputs for said risk factors and automatically producing an assessment of risk for said industrial equipment based on said inputs for said risk factors and said evaluation data in said program.

33. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A risk assessment system as claimed in claim 34 wherein one of said risk factors is a level of risk reduction based on safety characteristics of a particular facility in which said industrial equipment is to be used.

34. CURRENTLY AMENDED A risk assessment system as claimed in claim 32 wherein said ~~[evaluation data in said program is predetermined]~~ said net value and said assessment of risk vary with variations in said inputs.

35. CURRENTLY AMENDED A risk assessment system as claimed in claim 33 wherein said ~~[evaluation data]~~ net value is established based upon an equation of $A+B=C$ where A is the capability of said industrial equipment, B is the ability of said user, and C is the result.

36. ORIGINAL A risk assessment system as claimed in claim 35 wherein said report contains inputs for various risk factors.

37. ORIGINAL A risk assessment system as claimed in claim 32 wherein the risk factors relate to risk of injury based on characteristics of said industrial equipment and a level of risk reduction based on safety elements.

38. ORIGINAL A risk assessment system as claimed in claim 37 wherein said risk factors further relate to a level of risk reduction based on a location where said equipment is to be installed.

39. ORIGINAL A risk assessment system as claimed in claim 37 wherein said risk factors further relate to a level of risk reduction based on safety characteristics of a particular facility in which said industrial equipment is to be used.

40. ORIGINAL A risk assessment system as claimed in claim 32 wherein said system requires input identifying an owner of the equipment.

41. ORIGINAL A risk assessment system as claimed in claim 40 wherein said system requires input relating to an identification of the industrial equipment.

42. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A risk assessment system as claimed in any one of claims 32, 34 or 33 wherein said level of risk for each of said risk factors for which inputs are available are available on pop-up menus.

43. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A risk assessment system as claimed in any one of claims 32, 34 or 33 wherein said system permits a separate evaluation for each area of hazardous motion of a single piece of industrial equipment.

44. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A risk assessment system as claimed in any one of claims 32, 34 or 33 wherein said system allows the creation of a new version or an edited version of an existing risk assessment for said industrial equipment provided that inputs are made clearly differentiating any new or edited version from a previous version.

45. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A risk assessment system as claimed in any one of claims 32, 34 or 33 wherein a probability of hazard occurrence is inherently set at 100%.

46. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A risk assessment system as claimed in any one of claims 32, 34 or 33 wherein a probability of hazard occurrence has inputs over a broad range.

47. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A risk assessment system as claimed in any one of claims 32, 34 or 33 wherein said system has inputs for a probability of hazard occurrence over a range from substantially 90% to substantially 100%.

48. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A risk assessment system as claimed in any one of claims 32, 34 or 33 wherein said system has inputs for a probability of hazard occurrence over a range from substantially 80% to substantially 100%.

49. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A risk assessment system as claimed in any one of claims 32, 34 or 33 wherein said system has inputs for a probability of hazard occurrence over a range from substantially 50% to substantially 100%.

50. PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED A risk assessment system as claimed in any one of claims 32, 34 or 33 wherein said system has inputs for a probability of hazard occurrence over a range from substantially 0% to substantially 100%.